



Urban District Council of Belper.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

DECEMBER 31st, 1922.

COUNCILLOR W. BLACKHAM (Chairman)

„ J. E. BAINES
„ W. EDWARDS
„ J. W. FLINDERS
„ S. FROGGATT
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„ J. HUNTER, J.P.
„ R. B. MUIR
„ J. W. PATCHETT
„ T. W. PARKIN
„ J. A. RICHARDS
„ D. WILSON

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

RICHARD C. ALLEN,
M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.) D.P.H. (B'HAM.)

Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN A. STATHAM, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Urban District Council of Belper.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BELPER URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Belper Urban District. The Report this year, as of last year, is brief and of an ordinary character. You will see that the Vital Statistics are most satisfactory, and that a great amount of work has been done and many improvements made during the year.

Mr. J. A. Statham, the Sanitary Inspector, has again done a great deal of valuable work, and I thank him for his help and co-operation.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health *for the Year 1922.*

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area of the District in acres—Land, 3182 ; Water, 57 ; Total, 3239.

Rateable Value, £44,490.

General District Rate for year, 5/- in the £

Sum represented by a penny rate, £185.

Geology. Alluvial deposit with marl and sandstone with clay. A thin layer of coal is also found with outcrops in various localities.

Population—Census, 1901, 10,093. Census, 1911, 11,643.

„ 1921, 12,330. Estimated, 1922, 12,490.

No. of inhabited houses, 1922, 2789.

No. of families or separate occupiers, 2830.

No. of new houses erected, 1922—21.

Chief occupations of inhabitants—Cotton and hosiery work, ironworkers and coal mining.

Number of births registered, 142 males, 131 females. Total 273.

Number of illegitimate births, 5 „ 3 „ „ 8.

Birth Rate (R.G.) 1922, 21·05.

Number of Deaths, 73 males, 74 females. Total, 147. Death Rate, 11·7

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—None.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 2.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 2.

Deaths from Scarlet Fever „ „ 1.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years), 2.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 33.

Infantile mortality per 1000 births, 120·8.

Births.

273 Births were registered during the year (142 males and 131 females), of that number 8 were of illegitimate parentage. During the year 1921, 277 Births were registered (143 males and 143 females), of that number 11 were illegitimate. It will be seen that the number of Births for 1921 and 1922 is practically the same. The Birth Rate for the year 1922 is 21.05 per thousand of the estimated population.

Deaths.

147 Deaths occurred during the year 1922 (73 males and 74 females). 39 Deaths took place in the Union Workhouse, but 27 of these were from other Parishes of the Union. During the year 1921 136 deaths took place (75 males and 79 females). The Death Rate for the year 1922 is 11.7 per thousand of the estimated population.

Infantile Mortality.

33 Deaths occurred in children under 1 year of age, making a rate per 1000 Births of 120.8. This is practically double the infantile death rate for 1921, when 20 deaths of infants under 1 year took place, and the infantile mortality was 70.2 per 1000 Births registered. It will be seen that Congenital Debility, Malformations, and Premature Births (there were one lot of triplets and one lot of twins amongst the latter) were responsible for the majority of the deaths, whilst also Whooping Cough and Influenza each claim 2 deaths against no deaths from those diseases in 1921. The total number of Births also being slightly lower has also a direct effect in making the infantile death rate high.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

One Centre is open, under the Derbyshire County Council, and is held at Green Hall every Monday afternoon.

Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, and also the number of cases removed to Hospital.

<i>Diseases.</i>			<i>No. notified.</i>		<i>No. removed to Hospital.</i>
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup			...	7	6
Scarlet Fever	16	12
Erysipelas	2	...
Malaria
Pneumonia	3	...

<i>Diseases.</i>		<i>No. notified.</i>	<i>No. removed to Hospital.</i>
Puerperal Fever ..	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	...
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	17	5
,, (other forms)	...	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	1	...
Enteric Fever	...	1	...
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	49	24
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Tuberculosis.

18 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, 17 of which were pulmonary. During 1921, 24 cases were notified, 18 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary. Phthisis caused 6 deaths during the year, giving a Phthisis Death Rate of 0.49 per thousand of the population.

Venereal Diseases.

Special treatment is provided at the Venereal Clinic, Derby Royal Infirmary. Afternoon and evening sessions have been arranged on two days each week for males and females.

Small Pox.

One case occurred to a boy aged 13 years. The case was removed to Hospital, the contacts all isolated and vaccinated immediately. I think it is of the greatest satisfaction that no other case occurred, especially when one considers the great number there have been not many miles away from Belper, and I am sure that the active measures taken by your officials in attacking the disease at the onset, and the willingness shown by all "contacts" in giving their co-operation, have been the means of limiting the disease to one case, especially as this case was the worst and most typical of all the 50 odd we have had in the Isolation Hospital.

Scarlet Fever.

16 cases were notified during the year, with one death. These occurred in all parts of the district. 12 cases were moved to Hospital, and the infected premises immediately disinfected. Most of the cases were of a very mild type.

Erysipelas.

Only 2 cases were notified, with no deaths. No special remarks are called for.

Puerperal Fever.

No cases notified.

Diphtheria.

7 cases were notified and 6 were removed to Hospital. There were no deaths from this disease, and all the cases were of a very mild type.

Enteric Fever.

1 very mild case was reported, and this was not removed to Hospital.

Malaria.

No cases notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

1 case of this disease reported, and this was nursed at home successfully.

Influenza.

This caused 5 deaths during the year, two of which were infants under 1 year of age. This disease was epidemic in the early part of the year.

It will be seen that the number of Infectious Diseases is extremely low, and is practically only half the number reported in 1921.

			1922	1921
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	...	...	17	18
„ other forms	...	...	1	6
Scarlet Fever	...	...	16	11
Diphtheria	...	...	7	13
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	2
Erysipelas	...	...	2	8
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	3	14
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	1	...
Small Pox	...	...	1	...
			<hr/> 49	<hr/> 79

The following are the number of specimens examined in the Derbyshire County Council Laboratory, sent in from patients residing in the Belper Urban District.

			<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
Enteric Fever	...	...	2	1
Diphtheria	...	...	11	37
Phthisis	...	...	12	39
Miscellaneous	...	...	1	4
Total			26	81

Sanitary Administration.

Water Supply. The public water supply is more than sufficient for the supply of the district, and is obtained from a deep well and springs at three reservoirs. There are a few wells still left in the district—12 samples of water have been taken from these, situated at Sots Hole, The Rough, and Dalley, and owing to the result of the examination not being satisfactory several of the wells have been closed, and the public water supply substituted.

Schools.

There are 11 Schools in the district. All are provided with the public water supply. Visits have been paid to all Schools several times during the year. I have already brought to your notice the unhealthy condition of Long Row Boys' and Infants' Schools. The ventilation is unsatisfactory, and the presence of rats under the floor is an abomination—this is due to there being no concrete or asphalt base under the boarded floor. The closet accommodation at all the Schools is satisfactory, with the exception of Long Row Girls' School and High Street Infants' School, where there are trough closets, which should be re-placed by pedestals. The Fleet Infants' and Pottery Girls' Schools (all departments) and Long Row School (all departments) were closed during the year for a period of 14 days in each case, due to the prevalence of Measles.

Factories and Workshops.

Registered premises under the Factories and Workshops Acts 80, together with 11 Bakehouses.

48 visits have been paid the bakehouses, and everything has been found satisfactory. Numerous visits have been paid to the other Factories and Workshops, and 8 sanitary defects found have been dealt with. There are several registered outworkers in the district.

Food.

Meat and other foods offered in the district during the year have been on the whole of good quality. On two occasions I have had to bring before your notice the condition of certain fried fish shops, and improvements have taken place. The various slaughter-houses have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The meat supply in the market has received our constant supervision, the market having been visited every market day. It is most desirable that meat should be covered whilst on sale, and in Belper one sees carcasses or portions of meat exhibited outside the shops, where it catches all the dust and germs blown from the roadway. Meat is also removed from shop to shop, and from slaughter-house to shop, uncovered. I should like to see the butchers stop these practices. One disgusting practice I refer to, common in the district, and one which the Butchers themselves must know is not in the best interest of themselves or the buyer, is of the person selling the meat smoking either a cigarette or a pipe, whilst they are cutting up or serving customers (the latter part also applies to the fish merchants of the district)

Milk Supply.

There has been no definite evidence of any disease being attributable to the milk supply or distribution during the year.

Almost the whole of the milk produced in the district is sold within it, and some is also brought in from outlying areas. There are 44 persons registered within this district under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Acts. Milk is our principal food, especially for the sick, aged, and infants, and should be our cleanest, whereas I am sorry to say it is our dirtiest. The great sources of infection of milk are dirt and water, and the dirt that gets in is, in a great extent, due to the farmers, owing to the dirty condition the cows and cow byres are kept. Some of the farmers in the district do not keep their animals in as clean a condition as they should, and I am sure the Farmers' Union could do much, in conjunction with the Sanitary Authority, towards bringing about an improvement in those farms where modern improvements have not taken place, so that a cleaner and purer milk supply could be obtained.

The 1923 Act (in parts) could be a step in the right direction towards getting a purer milk supply, but will require great revision before it becomes a practical proposition. It is impossible for the purveyor of milk (who is not always the producer) to be responsible for the cleanliness of the herds and sheds, whilst it is ridiculous that the occupier instead of the owner should be responsible for all expenses incurred due to making fresh light or ventilation in the byres or sheds.

In some cases the delivery of milk is not done in as cleanly a manner as it might be. Your Sanitary Inspector and myself have made 86 visits to cowsheds during the year. Certain improvements have taken place towards getting a cleaner milk supply, but there is still room for much more to be done.

Air Pollution.

No nuisance arising through the pollution of air by smoke or other noxious vapours have occurred in the district during the year.

Scavenging.

The important work of house refuse collection has been efficiently carried out by the Council during the year, but the disposal of the refuse by dumping it on footpaths, which is not only a dangerous practice, but most unhygienic, and also by throwing it on tips adjacent to dwelling houses is to be most strongly condemned, and the residents in the Field Head and Chesterfield Road area have a just cause for complaint. I am very pleased to see that the erection of a Destructor is shortly going to take place, and shall be happy to see it in working order.

The collecting of house refuse, night soil, etc., has cost during the year 11/0½ per house, and I think before long the Council will have to consider the collection of refuse by motor lorry, as it is a quicker mode of transit, and no doubt would be cheaper. We saw examples of this on our visit to the two Urban Districts near Manchester. Making it compulsory for every household to have its own zinc dustbin should be pressed forward.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage of various parts of the district is treated and disposed of at the Outfall Works, Derby Road, but there are still parts of the district which require sewerage. I refer to the Dalley, Sots Hole, The Bent, Bridge Foot, and especially the Shaw Lane district. I have on several occasions brought to your notice the insanitary drainage condition of this area.

During the year we have had the much needed extension of the sewerage to the far end of Over Lane, and also the Far Laund districts, and every house with the exception of one have had the drains brought up to modern requirements and connected to the sewer.

During the last 12 months considerable work has been carried out in the conversion of privies and pail closets to the water carriage system, 116 of these having taken place—a very gratifying result, and will no doubt have a very beneficial effect on the health of the inhabitants.

Housing.

Belper, like a good many other districts, are allowing wooden huts to be erected as dwelling-houses. In many cases they are jerry built and ramshackle, and the ventilation and drainage is primitive in the extreme, and I hope the Council will take into earnest consideration all the facts before they allow many of these dwellings to be planted about the district.

I should like to have seen some of the houses that have been erected by the Council when they become vacant offered in the first place to persons who are at present living in houses which are, or should be, condemned as unfit for human habitation. Some of the homes are at present not far removed from "kennels." I refer to the thatched houses situated at Bargate, both of which harbour man and wife and a host of children.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available in the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home (*a*) General. 2 by Nurses employed by the Belper Nursing Association. (*b*) For Infectious Diseases, 0.

MIDWIVES. 3 by Nurses employed by the Belper Nursing Association.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. The Derbyshire County Council hold a School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre at Green Hall, Belper.

Tubercular Dispensary is at Derbyshire County Council Offices, Derby.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority, or by the County Council :

Tuberculosis : At Walton, near Chesterfield

Maternity : None.

Children : Hospitals in Derby.

Fever : Belper Joint Isolation Hospital.

Beds : Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever—50.

Small Pox—12.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. (*a*) For Infectious cases by Ambulance supplied by the Joint Isolation Hospital Committee.

(*b*) For non-infectious and accident cases—None.

LABORATORY WORK. Pathological and bacteriological examination are made free of charge at the County Offices, Derby (Derbyshire County Council).

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION. See Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health : Part time.

Sanitary Inspector : Whole time. Holds the two certificates from Royal Sanitary Institute.

Health Visitors supplied by Derbyshire County Council.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, and REGULATIONS.

List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations relating to the public health, in force in the district :

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1885.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, and Section 95, Part 10.

BYELAWS (made in 1915) with respect to :

New Streets and Buildings.

Common Lodging Houses.

Drainage of existing Buildings.

Slaughterhouses.

Nuisances.

Offensive Trades.

REGULATIONS (made 1906) with respect to :

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

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Births registered during the year 1922.

		<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
January	...	13	20	33
February	...	13	7	20
March	...	10	11	21
April	...	8	8	16
May	...	17	17	34
June	...	16	12	28
July	...	16	8	24
August	...	6	8	14
September	...	10	5	15
October	...	11	13	24
November	...	14	12	26
December	...	8	10	18
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		142	131	273
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Illegitimate	...	5	3	8

**Deaths registered during the Year 1922 classified
by age and cause.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Public Institu- tions.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Measles ...	2		1	1				
Scarlet Fever ...	1				1			
Whooping Cough ...	2	2						
Epidemic Influenza ...	5	2				2	1	
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	9					2	7	4
Arterio Sclerosis ...	5						5	7
Phthisis ...	6				3	3		1
Cancer, Malignant Disease...	15				1	11	3	6
Bronchitis ...	6	1				1	4	
Pneumonia ...	12	5	2			4	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	1						1	
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	2					2		1
Premature Birth, Congenital Debility and Malformation	13	13						
Heart Diseases ...	20					6	14	9
Accidents ...	3				1		2	
Suicides ...	1					1		
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1				1			
Acute or Chronic Nephritis...	6	1	1			3	1	3
Diarrhoea ...			2					
All other causes—defined ..	34	8	3	3	3	3	14	7
undefined	1	1						
All causes ...	147	33	9	4	10	38	53	39

Tuberculosis Diseases during 1922.

				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
				PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.	
Under 1 year	...						
" 2 "	...						
" 3 "	...						
" 4 "	...						
" 5 "	...	1					
" 10 "	...	1	1		1		
" 15 "	...	1	1				
" 20 "	...		1				
" 25 "	...	1					
" 35 "	...	1					
" 45 "	...		2				
" 65 "	...	4	3				

Infantile Mortality.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	6	1			1	1	1	2		5
Premature Birth ...	...			1	2	9					9
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ...	...	1				1	1	1	3	2	8
Nephritis ...	...							1			1
Whooping Cough ...	...						1	1			2
Bronchitis ..	...							1			1
Congenital Heart Disease ...	...	3	1			4					4
Septic Absorption following Eczema ...	...								1		1
Influenza ...	...							1		1	2
Totals ...	...	10	2	1	2	15	3	6	6	3	33

Infectious Diseases notified during 1922.

									Removed to Hospital.				
		Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric	Erysipelas	Pneumonia			Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric	Erysipelas	Pneumonia
Under 1 year	...	1					Under 1 year	...	1				
" 2 "	...	2					" 2 "	...	2				
" 3 "	...		4				" 3 "	...		3			
" 4 "	...	1	3				" 4 "	...	1	3			
" 5 "	...	1	2				" 5 "	...	1	1			
" 10 "	...		4				" 10 "	...		2			
" 15 "	...	1	1			1	" 15 "	...	1	1			1
" 20 "	...	1					" 20 "	...					
" 25 "	...		1			1	" 25 "	...		1			
" 35 "	...		1			2	" 35 "	...		1			
" 45 "	...			1			" 45 "	...					
" 65 "	...				2		" 65 "	...					
Totals ...	...	7	16	1	2	3	Totals ...	...	6	12			1

TABLE X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1922.
(Provisional figures. Populations as enumerated in 1921 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.				
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes of Death.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	.. ..	12.9	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.04	0.16	0.11	0.54	0.44	6.2	77	25.6	92.7	6.2	1.1
96 Great Towns, including London (1911 Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	21.4	13.0	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.19	0.13	0.56	0.41	7.6	82	32.9	92.6	6.7	0.7
148 Smaller Towns (1911 Census Populations 20,000—50,000)	28.5	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.15	0.09	0.58	0.35	5.6	75	16.9	93.6	5.1	1.3
London	21.0	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.35	0.07	0.25	0.25	0.57	0.45	7.1	74	48.7	92.1	7.8	0.1

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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Area of District, 3182. Estimated No. of Houses, 2789.
New Houses erected 1922, 21.

Housing and Town Planning.

No. of Houses inspected under Section 17	...	...	...	230
No. unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...
Representations made to Local Authority as to Closing Orders	...	...	...	...
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...
Number repaired without Closing Order	...	...	...	3
Number repaired after Closing Order made	...	...	...	1
Number closed	...	...	...	...
Number demolishod	...	...	...	1
Number repaired voluntarily	...	...	...	3
A scheme has been prepared in Housing Survey Form				
Number of Houses proposed in scheme	...	...	...	226
The scheme is not now in progress				
Number of houses completed under the scheme	...	...	...	64
Number of houses completed during the year 1922	...	...	...	14
Number of houses yet to be completed or erected	...	...	...	128

	<i>Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.</i>	<i>Legal Notices served by Local Authority.</i>	<i>Nuisances abated with or without Notice.</i>
Drainage.			
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe	2	2	6
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets, and Drains	34	24	116
Drains obstructed	12	...	12

Closets and Ashpits.

Defective privies, pail closets, and ashpits (not for conversion)	...	...	...
Conversion of privies into W.C.'s	39	5	39
„ of pail closets into W.C.'s	74	9	74
Defective Water Closets	2	...	2
Provision of additional Water Closets	...	...	...
Provision of portable ashbins	2	...	2
Dirty closets	16	...	16

Other Defects.

Paving of courts and yards	5	5	113
Roofs, eave-spouts, and down-spouts	18	12	48
Sinks	6	...	6
Insufficient ventilation	...	...	8
Windows	2	...	2
Dampness	23	6	23
Water in Cellars	1	...	1

	<i>Informal Notices served by</i>		<i>Legal Notices served by</i>	<i>Nuisances abated with or without Notice.</i>
	<i>Sanitary Inspector.</i>		<i>Local Authority.</i>	
Water supply	12	...	12
Foul condition of house	20	...	20
Offensive accumulations	...	14	...	14
Animals improperly kept	...	2	2	2
Pigsties	1	1	1
Smoke nuisance	1	...	1
Nuisances not specified above	...	12	...	12
		286	66	522

	Nuisances abated with or without Notice.			
	Number on Register.	Inspections made.	Notiices served.	
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops...	44	72	1	1
Bakehouses ...	11	48	1	1
Slaughterhouses ...	8	416	...	...
Offensive Trades ...	20	30	...	...
Common Lodging-houses ...	1	50	...	...
Totals ...	85	616	2	2

Infected Rooms disinfected, 50. Method—Formaldehyde and Sulphur.

Samples submitted for examination—Water, 12.

Four old houses have been pulled down during the year, and three houses have been erected in their place without any order from the Council.

The following foodstuffs have been surrendered during the year and destroyed :
156 lbs. of Beef, 24 lbs. of Liver, 10 cwts. of potatoes, 80 tins of Tomatoes, 14 tins of Meat, 15 tins of Pine Chunks, 11 tins of Milk, 4 tins of Pears.

(Signed)—JOHN A. STATHAM,

Sanitary Inspector.

Cert. R. San. Ins., Cert. Meat & Food Ins.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year 1922.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Twelfth Annual Report, and I desire at this point to take the opportunity of thanking you for the kind consideration and support which you have rendered me during the year.

During the year 1922 there were 296 Informal Notices, and 66 Legal Notices served. You will note from a perusal of the Statistical Return appended hereto that a considerable amount of work has been done. No less than 113 pails and privies have been converted during the year into the water carriage system, and from a survey of of the district, I estimate that there are now in the various Wards as follows :

Central	...	452	50	92	21
North	...	434	27	115	69
East	...	369	38	206	21
South	...	470	20	258	17
Totals	...	1735	125	671	128

The paving of yards and entries has been carried out during the year in many instances, which not only improves the appearance of the properties concerned, and its marketable value, but chiefly it has a decided beneficial effect upon the health of the inhabitants.

Old windows have been taken out during the year, and in many cases re-placed by the double hung sash type, and I am of opinion that time would not be wasted if the Council would consider the question of windows, and frame a byelaw that not only half the window shall be made to open, but make it compulsory that the whole of the window shall be made to do so.

Old houses have been re-modelled during the year, and brought up to modern requirements.

Notices have been served for defective eave and down spouting. These are not so trivial as they appear when one considers that when they are allowed to continue it means that the damp is penetrating the walls, and the plaster perishes, and that the cost of putting the defects right are higher than if the minor details were attended to in the first instance,

The dirty tenants of houses have also received your official attention. A constant watch has, however, to be kept over them, for after receiving notice an improvement is made for a time, but soon return to old conditions. I am pleased to state that there are not so many of this class of people as there have been, and, in my opinion, that they are on the decrease.

Inspections have been made of the Cowsheds in your district, and I trust that the time will not be long, with the aid of recent Acts and Orders, when we shall be receiving a cleaner and purer supply of milk.

The Bakehouses in the district have also received attention, and I am pleased to report that these are well kept on the whole.

The Slaughter-houses and Market have also received attention, and on the whole the quality of meat found is satisfactory.

The Common Lodging House has been visited day and night by your officials, and I am pleased to report that there have been no grounds to complain of the conduct or cleanliness of this Establishment during the year.

I remain, yours obediently,

JOHN A. STATHAM,

Sanitary Inspector.

